Losses to procurement agencies in Madhya Pradesh

†4413. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procurement agencies in Madhya Pradesh have incurred losses in procurement of paddy and wheat;

(b) if so, the reasons for the losses; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary steps so that the procurement agencies do not incur losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Replacement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986

4414. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to replace the existing Consumer Protection Act, 1986 with a new piece of legislation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the proposed Bill;

(c) whether Government propose to put in place a new Consumer Disputes' Redressal Machinery and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further steps are proposed to be taken to provide for the speedy settlement of complaints of the consumers?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government propose to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, to incorporate provisions that will facilitate quicker disposal of cases by the consumer disputes redressal agencies. These include provisions for constitution of Benches of the State Commission and National Commission, prescribing the period within which complaints are to be admitted, notices issued and complaints disposed of, restricting grant of adjournments and streamlining the procedures.

Corruption in FCI

4415. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI has acquired a notoriety for corrupt practices right from procurement of foodgrains, transportation of supplies across the country and storage of stocks; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Food Corporation of India deals with procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains. Complaints are received about irregularities committed by the employees of the Corporation in these operations. In order to curtail/eliminate the irregularities, remedial measures such as regular surprise checks are conducted. Prompt action is initiated on such complaints and appropriate action taken the delinquent officials.